at this rate, if Government did not afford the requisite relief prayed for, the useful class of hereditary Ealava physicians would be nowhere in the course of the next three or four decades. The member closed with a prayer that due consideration might be given to all the above representations, and such orders passed as might be calculated to remove all the educational disabilities of the Ealavas. (The memorial is published as Appendix C to the Proceedings.)

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (*Kunnattur*) suggested that the treatment of snake-bite might be taught as one of the subjects in the Ayurvedic Patasala and that those who passed out in this subject might be given special grants-in-aid. He also pleaded for the admission of Ealava boys into this Patasala.

Reply.—Under the present conditions, it is not possible to admit Ealava boys into all Government schools. Admission is practically free to all castes in Government English schools. Admission to Vernacular middle schools is also free, except where they are situated in close proximity to temples or palaces. The unrestricted admission of Ealava pupils into caste girls' schools is also not feasible now. Wherever there is a sufficient number of pupils to constitute a separate school, the question of opening the same will be thought of. Ealavas cannot at present be admitted into the Ayurvedic school on account of its situation. As regards the opening of a class for the study of snake-bite cure, the matter will be referred to the Superintendent of native Vaidyasalas.

173. Promotion of the education of backward classes.

Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*Agastiswaram*) pointed out that many of the schools for the education of backward classes, such as the pulayas and the pariahs, were maintained by private agencies and only aided by Government. This arrangement did not work well and he prayed that more schools for imparting instruction to them might be started under direct Government management.

Mr. T. Marthandan Tampi, B. A., (*Trivandrum*) said that he wished to advocate the cause of a community who sent no representatives to the Popular Assembly, *viz.*, the Pulayas. They were inferior to the Ealavas in social status and were labouring under diverse disabilities. The only remedy was to give them education. Free primary edu-

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cation to all backward classes including the Pulayas had been granted, and 200 primary schools were maintained for imparting instruction to them. He was however not in a position to say how many of these schools were under direct Government management, but their number must be extremely small. The large majority of schools were under the management of missionaries and it was noteworthy that they turned their attention more to conversion than to education. The Pulayas were being treated in this manner, not only in the matter of education, but also in respect of medical relief and attendance in courts. The member prayed that with a view to remove the various disabilities under which these men who were now treated as worse than beasts of burden laboured, more schools might be opened under Government management for imparting instruction to them, and a special Inspector appointed to supervise the working of the schools for backward classes in the State.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) said that there were very few schools for backward classes in the Kottayam Division as compared with the Padmanabhapuram Division and that both the Pulayas and the Malayala Brahmins in the northern taluks were extremely backward in the matter of education. He suggested that a special school might be opened for the latter at Kaduthuruthy and other Brahmin centres, on the lines of the caste English school now maintained at Mavelikara.

Reply.—At present there are 276 schools for backward classes with 5,907 pupils. 20 of these are under the direct management of Government and the rest aided. No new school was opened in 1081, as the demand for the same was met by private agencies who were liberally aided by Government. Education cannot be unsound simply because it is given by missionaries. If further necessity is felt, more Government schools for backward classes will be opened.

174 Giving Government Scholarships to not less than 4 students from among the Krishnanvagakars.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) said that the Krishnanvagakars belonged to a caste of Hindus living in Eraniel and Kalkulam. They were extremely backward in education and had not yet produced even a single matriculate. The member suggested that, by way of

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